



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 28, 1997

The Honorable James Inhofe, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, Private  
Property and Nuclear Safety  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for the information of the Subcommittee is a final amendment to 10 CFR Parts 20 and 35 dealing with criteria for the release of patients administered radioactive materials. Roughly 8 to 9 million medical diagnostic and therapeutic administrations of radioactive material are performed in the United States each year.

The rule is largely in response to three petitions for rulemaking that were submitted by the medical community because of concerns that the NRC's recent amendments of its regulations in Part 20, "Standards for Protection Against Radiation," would require medically unnecessary hospitalization of patients administered radioactive materials for the treatment of disease and would thus increase national health care costs.

The rule makes it clear that the release of patients administered radioactive materials continues to be regulated by the requirements in NRC's Part 35, "Medical Use of Byproduct Material." Thus, the more restrictive requirements in Part 20 do not apply to release of patients. While the comments of the medical community on the proposed rule were generally supportive, they objected strongly to one of the recordkeeping requirements contained in the proposed rule. Upon reconsideration, the NRC has deleted the recordkeeping requirement in question after concluding that the records were not necessary to provide for adequate protection of public health and safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dennis K. Rathbun", is written over a horizontal line.

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:  
As Stated

cc: Senator Bob Graham



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
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January 28, 1997

The Honorable Dan Schaefer, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Power  
Committee on Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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Enclosure:  
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cc: Rep. Ralph Hall

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Enclosures:

1. Public Announcement
2. Federal Register Notice

cc: Rep. Frank Pallone

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\* See previous conc.

Office	RPHEB:DRA	RPHEB:DRA	D:DRA:RES	D:RES
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Date	1/17/97	1/17/97	1/17/97	1/21/97
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Office	OGC		
Name	DRathbun		
Date	1/20/97		
Distribution	Yes/No		

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*Ranking Member*

*WFS-9200203*

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The Honorable Lauch Faircloth, Chairman  
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